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Identical letters dated 29 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing in response to the letter dated 19 June 2012 (S/2012/457) from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations concerning the situation in the Sinai peninsula, Egypt.

That letter referred to two specific incidents. The first concerned rockets that were launched into southern Israel on 16 June 2012, and the second, an attack on the Egyptian-Israeli border in which an Israeli citizen was killed.

Egypt condemns such attacks and reaffirms its unchangeable commitment to work with its neighbours on the basis of the principles of good-neighbourliness and peaceful relations. Nevertheless, it should be noted that those two incidents should not be used in order to justify the erroneous assumption that the Egyptian peninsula of Sinai has become a safe haven from which terrorists may attack Israel, as is suggested in the letter of the Permanent Representative of Israel.

The fact of the matter is that the two above-mentioned incidents are currently being independently investigated by the relevant authorities in both Egypt and Israel. The Egyptian authorities are continuing to exert every effort to find out who was responsible for originating and perpetrating those incidents. In that regard, Egypt would welcome the exchange of information with the Israeli side.

Against that background, I should like to underline that the Egyptian authorities are doing everything in their power to maintain stability in Sinai, and expects Israel to understand the related sensitivities and challenges. I should also like to note that Egypt and Israel have concluded a peace treaty, under which numerous mechanisms are available in order to address any incidents such as those referred to in the aforementioned letter. Egypt hopes that in future, both States will make better use of those mechanisms.

Please circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mootaz Ahmadein **Khalil**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative